

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
July 12, 2016
Minutes**

Select Board members present: Frank Sears, Matt Patry, and Laurie Phillips

Planning Commission members present: Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Bob Lloyd, Grant Reynolds, Kim Harbaugh, and Kevin Ruane

Equipment Fund Committee members Stan Wilbur, Amanda Gill, Hollis Squier, Eric Buffum, and Kevin Ruane

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Reviewed agenda – no changes.

Board approved minutes of 6/9/16, 6/28/16 and 7/7/16 as written, moved by Frank, 2nded by Laurie, all in favor.

Board moved the Planning Commission to the top of the agenda.

PC members advised they wanted to discuss proposed amendments to the Town Plan with Select Board to get input prior to going holding a public hearing, after which the proposed amendments would come before the Select Board for review and its own public hearing.

PC members advised the Select Board that they wanted to have something in writing in the Town Plan regarding commercial solar/energy siting as the Public Service Board looks at a town's plan for guidance when they have an application before them. At a recent meeting in Middletown Springs, a solar developer advised he could do whatever the wanted as Middletown does not have anything in writing regarding solar projects.

Select Board inquired about suitable areas, prohibited areas (there is now a list of historic and culturally significant areas), protection for land owners and town, thanked them for their work and asked the PC to consider their concerns.

It was also noted that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission had determined that Flood Resiliency had to be addressed in order for the town plan to be amended and still retain RRPC approval. There will be a major updating of the town plan in the coming year as it needs to be re-adopted in 2017.

The Planning Commission exited at 7:39 to complete their own meeting and consider the SB's suggestions. They retired to the upstairs conference room at the town office.

Back to the regular agenda ~

Eric advised that recent thunderstorms resulted in ditches and culverts needing to be cleaned out. He inquired about spraying chloride to help keep dust down on gravel roads. There is \$1200 budgeted, none was purchased last year. It can be spread with a lime spreader – town does not have spraying equipment. North East Road, North End Road and Gulf Road all have areas that need application.

Board opened bids for erosion project on McCoy Road – Dan Allard bid \$24,000; Kevin Ruane bid \$16,500. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to award the contract to Kevin as low bidder. All voted in favor.

Board opened bids for ditching project on McNamara Road (per hour for excavator) - Dan Allard bid \$88 per hour; Kevin Ruane bid \$100 per hour. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to award the contract to Dan as low bidder. All voted in favor.

Eric inquired about needed wrenches. Laurie noted she is still working on acquiring more tools for the town garage. Hollis offered to let the town use his welder at no charge until they can get one. Laurie advised the town had a quote, she will make it happen, cost with helmet and gloves is around \$3,000.

Matt inquired about the town spraying poison parsnips, which are really abundant this year. Town would need a permit/license – landowner can do on their own.

Equipment Fund Committee – Eric provided before and after photos of brush removal on Journey’s End Road – town had rented a chipper for three days – he decided to take getting a chipper off the wanted list, until he got a quote for brush removal on Mountain View Road for over \$3800. He noted the road crew is working on a road inventory and needed brushing and ditching.

Gail advised the Equipment Fund has a balance of \$86,000 at the end of FY16 (June 30th). FY17’s allotment is \$51,000.

Committee members have not been able to reach a consensus about which piece of equipment should be purchased first. The loader was scheduled to be replaced, the road commissioner wants an excavator, some members want a backhoe with various attachments; there are pros and cons for each piece being considered. Financing was also part of the discussion – there is not enough in the account to buy more than one – should the town take out a loan, or lease? They asked the Select Board to determine how much money could be spent. Eric has obtained ball park estimates for an excavator, backhoe, skid steer, trailer (for excavator) – municipal discounts play a big role in cost.

Frank noted that the Board needs to consider the road commissioner’s wishes as well as keep taxpayers in mind. Stan noted that the Select Board can borrow for up to five years without voter approval – Gail advised against that without a public meeting to inform voters.

Select Board asked that numbers be run with various pieces of equipment and their uses for their next meeting.

Hollis inquired about VTEL’s progress with the fiber optic line – there are still a few folks on the old copper lines – they will lose telephone service once VTEL stops maintaining two systems. VTEL still needs to remove the old pedestals and provide bore profiles. He asked the Board to write a letter to remind them that had promised to provide the bore profiles and that the pedestals needed to be removed. Board agreed.

Gail advised that the town tax rate should be set at \$0.6273, and that there needed to be a local rate of \$0.0004 to cover the veterans exemption voted at town meeting several years ago. Matt moved, Laurie 2nded, all voted in favor.

Kevin asked the Board to write a letter to VTRANS in Montpelier regarding the railroad track crossing on Rte 140 in Wallingford. It is in really bad shape, and nothing is being done to correct it. Board will encourage others to write letters as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar Board Assistant